

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03924 231445Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /083 W
-----003323 232149Z /72

R 231334Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7297
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3924

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA: PATRIOTIC FRONT UNITY PROSPECTS

1. VINCENT MIJONI, EDITOR OF THE ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL AND CLOSE TO JOSHUA NKOMO, DECEMBER 22 TOLD DCM THAT THE FRONTLINE MEETING AT BEIRA MARKED THE BEGINNING OF TRUE PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF) UNITY, ESPECIALLY ON THE MILITARY SIDE. FIRM DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN BY ZANU AND ZAPU TO INTEGRATE THEIR CADRE. ZAPU CADRE WILL BE ASSIGNED TO ZANU UNITS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ZANU IN ZAMBIA. THIS TIME AROUND MEASURES LEADING TO UNITY WOULD STICK BECAUSE THE WILL TO UNIFY CAME FROM WITHIN THE PF, NOT SOMETHING ARTIFICIAL FORCED UPON THE PF BY THE FRONTLINE.

2. MIJONI SAID A UNIFIED PF WOULD BE READY FOR A MAJOR OFFENSIVE BY MARCH OF 1978 AND THIS OFFENSIVE WOULD BE STRONG ENOUGH TO FORCE SMITH TO DEAL POLITICALLY WITH THE
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 03924 231445Z

PF AND SPECIFICALLY WITH NKOMO. MIJONI SPECULATED THAT A SHOW OF PF UNITY AND MILITARY STRENGTH WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE DISTASTEFUL TO SMITH. NKOMO WAS, HE SAID, SOMEONE RESPECTED BY SMITH FOR HIS LEADERSHIP QUALITIES, AND SMITH WOULD PREFER HIM TO OTHER NATIONALISTS AS THE LEADER OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. A DISPLAY OF MILITARY STRENGTH BY THE PF WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR SMITH TO JUSTIFY TO

THE WHITES WITHIN RHODESIA A DECISION TO GIVE NKOMO THE PRINCIPAL ROLE IN THE FORMATION OF A BLACK GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: MIJONI EXPRESSED VIEWS SIMILAR TO THE ABOVE LAST OCTOBER. THERE IS UNDOUBTEDLY A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF WISHFUL THINKING IN HIS PREDICTION OF UNITY BETWEEN ZAPU AND ZANU. HE DOES REFLECT THE VIEWS OF ZAMBIAN AND ZAPU LEADERSHIP HOWEVER. LOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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